



National Agricultural Statistics Service

USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Hawaii Taro Millings

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Taro for poi production increases

The USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office estimates taro for poi production at 1.1 million pounds for the third quarter of 2005, up 28 percent from the second quarter.

The third quarter began with a 12-percent increase in taro for poi production to 325,000 pounds in July 2005. Taro for poi production then increased to its highest monthly level so far this year in August at 400,000 pounds, up 23 percent from July. The third quarter closed with a 10-percent decrease in September to 360,000 pounds. Compared to a year ago, monthly production continued to be lower in 2005. Overall, the 2005 third quarter taro for poi production total was down 19 percent compared to 2004.

Weather-wise, conditions were mixed during the third quarter of 2005. July weather was marked by persistent trade winds which resulted in frequent showers in windward areas of most islands. Summer-like conditions arrived in August as warm temperatures and reduced rainfall occurred in most areas. Conditions were particularly dry

for the islands of Kauai and Oahu. In fact, the National Weather Service reported that Kauai experienced its second driest August on record this year. Despite the drop in rainfall, the overall weather for the first two months of the third quarter generally benefited taro growers. Following a relatively dry August, rainfall increased significantly in most parts of the State during September. Three episodes of heavy rain accounted for most of September's wet weather. The first heavy rain event occurred from September 13 through 15 and primarily affected the north- and east-facing areas of Kauai, Oahu, and Maui, and Hawaii islands. The heavy showers inundated low-lying areas and caused Kauai's Hanalei River to overflow its banks. On September 22 and 23 another round of heavy showers pelted the State with Oahu Island receiving the bulk of the rain. The final round of heavy rains started on September 30 and extended into October. Hawaii, Maui, and Oahu again received the bulk of the heavy showers. ■

Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 5-year average, 2004, and 2005.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>												
5-year average ¹	464	453	477	443	455	462	478	485	469	482	458	483	5,609
2004.....	370	360	410	410	390	430	460	440	440	420	420	450	5,000
2005	350	340	370	280	275	290	325	400	360				
Percent changes:	<i>Percent</i>												
2005/5-year	75	75	78	63	60	63	68	82	77				
2005/2004.....	95	94	90	68	71	67	71	91	82				

¹ Years: 2000-2004.

Monthly Taro for Poi Millings State of Hawaii: 2004, 2005, and 5-year averages

